

March 7, 1952

Dear Arline,

Just to prove to you that I haven't forgotten completely that I promised to write you re: the cost of a county set-up and send you our annual report, I'm still going to send along the letter I wrote long ago, and then put aside because I wanted to get some more stuff collected for you and then never did get back to it - it's beat-up condition will give silent and sad proof that it actually was written on the date indicated!

At least at this point I can include the 1951 annual report and can tell you that strange as it may seem my library board was only lukewarm to the idea of going out of the county with the bookmobile. They'd prefer to have a committee come here and look. I explained that that wasn't the idea in taking it out of the county - we wanted to promote the thing with all the people of an area so they could see what they'd be voting for. However, I'm not discouraged about it; for I think if a specific request came in from some county, their attitude might be different. They are very definitely interested in getting more county libraries developed in the state, so as I say I'm not discouraged about their reception of this idea.

cool

Their/reception of another idea, however, does bother me somewhat. There would have to be some pretty tall persuading done, I'm afraid if they were to agree to going into a regional set-up. I tossed that one out to them at last night's meeting because I think things are beginning to simmer up here (or should I say 'over' here?) in Cedar county. I've had some off-and-on correspondence with several different people over there and it's finally come to a head with their wanting me to come up and talk to a group of people on the night of March 26. Keep your fingers crossed for me - and them. This could be the beginning of a move for another one. Cedar like Scott is perfectly able, financially, to swing a county library by itself; but I'd still like to get a regional set-up operating somewhere in the state. I think until we do, we're not going to get too far with covering the state with rural library service. There are too many counties that actually are not financially able to carry the load alone, and I think those counties would need it demonstrated to them in a very practical way that two or more counties pooling their funds could operate efficiently. I'm not at all sure, at this point, though that something would have to be added to the law - or at least clarified. With the once-over lightly that I gave the thing yesterday, I found no clauses which deal with the procedure of a county, which is already operating as a county unit, getting into a regional unit. Anyway, I got enough of a cool reception to the idea last night, so that I will not promote the idea at the meeting in Cedar County. After all they are able to do it alone, and so are we; and at this point in our career I believe it judicious to "make haste slowly".

Sorry to have been so slow about this letter, Arline; but I'm wishing you all kinds of luck. If I can do anything to help you out, let me know. Might be coming thru your territory one of these days if spring gets here - my foot is getting itchy!

Sincerely,